

Supplementary Regulations for Study Programmes in Natural Sciences at NTNU

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The Supplementary Regulations (SR) for Study Programmes in Natural Sciences have been updated in accordance with the Academic Regulations for the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), originally from 1 January 2016 and most recently changed on 19 February 2024. The Supplementary Regulations for Study Programmes in Natural Sciences were adopted on 31 August 2024 by the deans of the Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (IE), the Faculty of Engineering (IV), the Faculty of Natural Sciences (NV) and the Faculty of Economics and Management (ØK). These regulations replace the Supplementary Regulations for Study Programmes in Natural Sciences of 1 August 2022.

SR § 1-1 Scope

The Supplementary Regulations to the Academic Regulations for NTNU for study programmes at IE, IV, NV and ØK apply to bachelor's programmes and master's programmes, including international master's programmes, in addition to one-year programmes and programmes of individual courses established for use in such programmes, for which the four faculties have management responsibility. This includes programmes in the natural sciences and programmes of professional study, but not the three-year engineering programmes and the Master of Science in Engineering (sivilingeniør) programmes. These programmes are not governed by national guidelines or curriculum regulations, except for the five-year master's programme in teacher education (lektorutdanning) in the natural sciences and the programme in biomedical laboratory science. The provisions also apply to international collaborative programmes unless otherwise agreed by the partners. Agreements between the partners must not violate NTNU's Academic Regulations.

The natural science study programmes are disciplinary studies in the subject areas of biology, physics, geology, informatics, chemistry and mathematical sciences, as well as interdisciplinary programmes of study based on these disciplines.

SR § 2-9 Affiliation requirements and prerequisites for awarding of new degrees

For formal approval of qualifications that have previously been used to calculate the basis for a degree or as part of a degree or professional qualification, the student must also complete at least 90 new credits that were not part of a previously completed degree before a new degree can be awarded. This does not apply to international collaboration in 2-year master's programmes. The faculties themselves can decide on exceptions.

SR § 3-4-6 Leave of absence

The faculty may consider assigning a new master's thesis in case of a leave of absence lasting longer than one year in master's programmes with 45-and 60-credit master's theses, or longer than half a year in master's programmes with 30-credit master's theses.

SR § 4-2 Specification of programme descriptions and course descriptions

1. Academic level of courses in 2-year master's programmes:

Basic courses at the bachelor's degree level (cycle 1 in the NQF) may not be included. Advanced courses at the bachelor's degree level (cycle 1 in the NQF) may be included for up to 22.5 credits after agreement with the faculty.

2. Specialized syllabus selected by the student in master's programmes:

Each study programme's description specifies whether the master's programme can or must include one or two courses with a syllabus selected by the student and a total scope of up to 15 credits. To achieve a master's degree totalling 120 credits, the faculty can apply to the Rector for an exemption from the rule on the scope of the course in credits (S-sak 89/16 of 7 December 2016) in cases of a specialized syllabus tied to the study programme and developed in collaboration with an external educational institution.

SR § 4-3 Individual education plan

4-3-1 Bachelor's thesis in bachelor programmes

1. Bachelor's agreement

1. For collaborative work, students must enter into a written agreement in advance that clearly establishes expectations for the participants' collaboration and output.
2. If the thesis is written in cooperation with a company, the student and advisor must draw up a cooperative agreement with the company in accordance with NTNU's regulations and templates.

2. Starting the bachelor's thesis

The programme description for each study programme specifies the academic progression requirements that must be met as a condition for starting the bachelor's thesis.

3. Submission deadline for bachelor's theses

The deadline for submitting bachelor's theses written in the autumn semester is normally 15 December. For bachelor's theses written in the spring semester, the submission deadline is normally 20 May.

4. Postponed submission of bachelor's theses

If the bachelor's thesis cannot be submitted by the deadline, the student can apply to the faculty to postpone submission, normally by up to six weeks. For joint work in groups, the entire group must apply for postponed submission. A postponement can be granted if there are special reasons for this. An application for postponed submission must include an explanation of the reasons, and a plan for completion of the work must be presented. Illness must be documented by a medical certificate or equivalent.

4-3-2 Master's thesis

1. Scope of the master's thesis

The master's thesis must have a scope of at least 30 credits and may have a scope of up to 60 credits. The scope is specified in the programme description.

2. Master's degree agreement:

A master's degree agreement must be entered into by the department responsible for the master's thesis, the supervisor and the student. The agreement must include a plan for completion of the master's thesis (with division of credits per semester if this is not indicated by the programme description). If the master's thesis is produced as a work of joint authorship, an agreement must be entered into by the students in the group to clarify expectations for their participation and collaboration.

3. Start of master's theses in five-year master's programmes

The programme description for each study programme specifies the progression requirements that must be met as a condition for starting the master's thesis.

4. Supervision and use of resources for the master's thesis

- a. All master's degree students must have a responsible supervisor. The responsible supervisor must be employed in a permanent academic position or adjunct position at the department responsible for the master's thesis. The master's thesis may be written under academic supervision entirely or partly at another department/faculty or external company/institution by agreement with the faculty to which the student belongs.
- b. The faculty may enter into an agreement that academic staff in a permanent position at another unit at NTNU (such as the NTNU University Museum) may have primary responsibility for supervision of master's students.
- c. The master's degree agreement governs duties and rights between the student, supervisor and department. Resources made available in the relevant master's programme may be withdrawn from students who do not comply with their obligations related to completion of the master's thesis. The faculty will decide whether to withdraw resources based on the recommendation of the responsible department.

5. Deadline for submitting the master's thesis

- a. There must be a time limit for completion of the master's thesis. The time limit should be proportional to the scope of work for the master's thesis (number of credits). 30 credits correspond to 20 weeks of work, 45 credits correspond to 30 weeks of work and 60 credits correspond to 40 weeks of work. The submission deadline is specified according to the scope of work for the master's thesis and the start date stipulated in the master's agreement, as well as point b below.
- b. In master's programmes where the master's thesis can or must be carried out over more semesters than indicated by the nominal study period, the deadline for submitting the master's thesis will be adjusted. The deadline for submitting the master's thesis is also adjusted according to the number of transfer credits recognized and the number of weeks that they represent.

6. Postponed submission of master's theses

- a. If the master's thesis cannot be submitted by the deadline, it is possible to apply for an extension. For master's theses of 60 or 45 credits, it is possible to apply for an extension of up to 3 months when there is a valid reason.
For master's theses of 30 credits, it is possible to apply for an extension of up to 6 weeks when there is a valid reason.
- b. It is only possible to apply for an extension twice according to the rules specified in section 7a. This does not apply if illness is the reason.

- c. Practical aspects of study at a university outside Norway, such as the structure of the academic year, may provide a basis for a short extension of the total time to be spent on the master's programme. In this case, this must be specified in the master's agreement and the individual education plan.
- d. For joint work in groups, the whole group must apply for postponement according to section 6a and 6b.

7. Reasons for postponed submission of the master's thesis

- a. Valid reasons for postponement (in addition to illness) may include teaching duties at NTNU, holding an office as a student representative, caregiving and problems with the thesis that are outside the candidate's control. Documentation or an explanatory statement in writing is required, as well as a new plan for completion. The faculty or department decides whether the application for postponed submission is accepted. When the reason for the extension is teaching duties at NTNU, organized student activities or caregiving, the extension is to be granted for a period corresponding to the specified cause.
- b. In connection with illness, the submission deadline will be extended for a period corresponding to the period of illness. Illness must be documented by a medical certificate or equivalent.

8. Copyright to and use of the master's thesis

For master's theses completed in collaboration with a company/external organization, see NTNU's [standard agreement for student and business cooperation](#).

4-3-3 Time limit on the use of courses in a degree

1. For a course to be included in a 3-year bachelor's degree or in a 2-year master's degree, the examination in the course must have been completed during the previous 12 semesters, calculated from the date on which the degree is to be awarded.
2. For a course to be included in a 5-year master's degree, the examination in the course must have been completed during the previous 12 semesters, calculated from the date on which:
 - a. The student completed courses that are included in the first three years of study.
 - b. The degree is to be awarded, for courses in the last two years of study.
3. If this time frame is exceeded, an academic evaluation of the course in relation to the current course description must be carried out. Factors to be considered include whether changes have been made in the course's academic content, methods or intended learning outcomes, as well as the development of the discipline. If there have been significant changes, the course is regarded as out of date. If no major changes have taken place, the course can still be included in the degree.

SR § 4-4 Part-time studies

1. The minimum workload for master's theses of 45 and 60 credits is 50% of the nominal length of study.
2. Bachelor's and master's theses of 30 credits or less cannot be written on a part-time basis.

SR § 5-1-7 Descriptions of grades for master's theses in STEM subjects

See the discipline-specific descriptions of grades for master's theses in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics): [Descriptions of the grades for master's theses](#)

SR § 5-3 Examination procedure for master's theses

1. The same assessment system must be used for master's theses assigned within the same programme of study. The assessment scheme for master's theses is stipulated in the programme description for the study programme in consultation with the participating department. The five-year teacher education programme in the natural sciences (MLREAL) is exempt from the assessment system applicable to the programme of study, and uses the assessment system stipulated in the course description for the master's thesis course.
2. If the master's thesis includes an oral examination for adjustment of the grade, this oral examination takes place in connection with the submission of the master's thesis and after the written work in the master's thesis has been graded.

SR § 5-4-6 The right to assessment without being a student (external candidates)

The right to register for assessment without being admitted as a student applies only in courses without compulsory activities, and in cases where the student has fulfilled any previous knowledge requirements for the course.

SR § 5-6 Assessment

- 1. Final examination each semester**
For courses in the natural science programmes, the final examination is held in the examination period each semester for courses with the course code prefixes BI, IT and KJ.
- 2. New assessment in connection with a failing grade**
The course description specifies which assessments must be repeated after a student has failed the course.

SR § 5-8-7 Language in master's theses

SR § 5-8-7 expires with effect from and including academic year 2024-2025 as a result of changes in NTNU's Academic Regulations, section 5-8 (8).

SR § 5-9 Student theses

5-9-1 Bachelor's theses with a scope of 15 credits or more

If the bachelor's thesis is assigned a failing grade or the letter grade "F", the student(s) must submit a new paper. Improvement/revision is not sufficient. The thesis can present the same thematic area with the same empirical foundation/underlying data.

5-9-2 Master's theses

1. If a failing grade or the letter grade "F" is assigned after the master's thesis has been graded in connection with the final examination, the student may resubmit the work as a new thesis or as a substantially revised version of the thesis. Students who wish to do this must inform the faculty within three months. The department, in consultation with the supervisor and examiner, must assess whether it is possible for the student to revise the master's thesis or whether a new thesis must be written.
2. A revised thesis with substantial changes must be completed in 50 % of the nominal length of study for the master's thesis. For a new thesis, the nominal length of study applies.
3. The provisions under points 1 and 2 also apply to a master's thesis that has not been submitted by the deadline. These are treated as if a grade of F has been assigned to the thesis.

SR § 7-3 Grade point average

No grade point average is specified on the diploma for programmes of study covered by these Supplementary Regulations; see section 1 for the scope of application.

SR § 8-1 Supplementary Regulations

The five-year teacher education programme in the natural sciences is governed both by the Supplementary Regulations for five-year teacher education programmes and by these Supplementary Regulations for study programmes in the natural sciences. The Supplementary Regulations for five-year teacher education programmes take priority over the Supplementary Regulations for study programmes in the natural sciences.

SR § 8-3 Entry into force

These Supplementary Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2024. The Supplementary Regulations for science programmes at NTNU of 1 August 2022 are repealed with effect from 1 September 2024.